

Outstanding work **TUE MAY 21 1985**

I would like to thank T.J. Wilson, Oakland Parks and Recreation Supervisor, and Earl McKelvy, who is responsible for the maintenance of baseball fields in Oakland, for their outstanding job and dedication in upgrading the quality of Oakland Athletic League baseball fields.

Thanks to these two individuals, athletes in Oakland can play on fields that are on par with any other Eastbay league. It's unfortunate that an outside agency must do the job that Oakland Public School officials in the Buildings and Grounds division have avoided for many years.

MICHAEL MARCOULIS, JR.
Fremont High School, Oakland

TUE JUN 10 1986

The trouble with the OAL is...

In general, the Oakland Athletic League is a well-coached league, filled with a gold mine of athletic talent. However, the organization and operation of the league is a farce.

The problem plaguing the league is at the administrative level of the district's athletic office. It is run by antiquated minds bent on keeping the district's status quo attitude toward athletics intact; a continual affliction of deaf, dumb and blindness anytime Skyline High School is involved, or could be involved, in a controversial issue.

I would like to make two suggestions that might solve this problem. One, prior to each athletic season, present Skyline with the first place trophy and then get on with league play. Secondly, ask the administrators in the district's

MAILBAG

athletic office to make a personal, dedicated contribution to the coaches, athletes, and parents of this city, in hopes of enhancing the level of respectability of the league. Resign immediately!

MIKE MARCOULIS, JR.
Fremont High School
Oakland

Father and son

SUN MAR 10 1985



DAVE NEWHOUSE

Twenty-five years ago, Mike Marcoulis began taking little Mike to high school basketball tournaments. Together, they watched the great McClymonds powerhouses coached by Paul Harless, and the methodical, well-schooled Fremont teams coached by Leo Allamanno.

It would be almost safe to say little Mike was weaned on a coaching whistle.

Big Mike watched for signs to see if little Mike might follow in his coaching sneakers. The first indication, the father remembers, came when his son was 9.

"It was a T-shirt game at Montclair Park," big Mike remembers. "Mike Jr. gave up a three-run homer in the first inning. Right away, he began encouraging his teammates that it was still early, that there was plenty of time to catch up."

"All through the game, he kept encouraging them. He wouldn't let them give up. In the last inning, they tied the score. Mike Jr., then won the game with a hit."

It wasn't the hit that stuck in big Mike's mind as much as the way little Mike assumed the role of player-coach. Dad never asked his son why he had taken control like that. He kind of knew. Coaching blood must run in the family, the father deduced.

Big Mike was quite a coach. His sport was baseball, though he coached little Mike in junior varsity basketball his sophomore year at Oakland High School.

"He'd come up to me and tell me which plays to run, and where everyone should be on the court," big Mike said. "He was ready to coach before college."

Little Mike played baseball at Cal-State Hayward, then became a coach. Like his dad. And he wanted to coach the same way his dad did.

"My father taught me a lot of philosophical stuff," little Mike said, "how to understand kids, show them that you care about them. My dad told me there shouldn't be a huge gap between the coach and players, that you have to be close to them, worry about them."

"I like kids, so that wasn't a problem."

IT WASN'T too long until father was matched against son. Big Mike was coaching at Oakland High, little Mike at Fremont. The elder Marcoulis was proud of how well his son had developed as a coach, but he wasn't going to just give games away because it was progeny. Big Mike wasn't hurt when little Mike beat him. In fact, he enjoyed it.

At night, they'd talk by phone. Little Mike would ask his father for advice. He learned from his dad at the same time big Mike was learning about his son.

It wasn't long before the opposite occurred, when father was leaning on son. Mike Sr., was suspended in 1981 from coaching baseball for three years after he reportedly recruited three Oakland Tech baseball players to play for Oakland High. A temporary restraining order lifted the suspension, and big Mike continued to coach. Later that year, the charges against him were proven false in Alameda County Superior Court.

"My dad needed a lot of help from his family," Mike Jr., said. "He went through a lot of mental anguish. He broke out in rashes, for things he never did. Lies, really."

"I know my father. He had put all those years into building a solid reputation that they tried to take away from him in a short time. I just told him, 'I know you did right.'"

Big Mike won the OAL baseball championship, and the Bay Series with the San Francisco champion, in 1980, '82 and '83. Little Mike won in '81.

When Allamanno retired two years ago, little Mike became the Fremont basketball coach as well. Big Mike retired from coaching last year, and he has worked the last month with the Fremont baseball team while little Mike was busy with basketball.

Friday night in the semifinals of the Northern California CIF Championship semifinals, Fremont, 20-6, was matched with Riordan, 30-1, rated one of the great high school basketball teams ever produced in San Francisco. Fremont caught fire late in the season to win the OAL playoffs, but didn't seem a match for mighty Riordan.

FREMONT WON, 59-56, in a shocking upset. Big Mike, 59, watched little Mike, 32, grow before his eyes. "I'm completely amazed," the father said yesterday. "It's more than I ever dreamed."

He seemed almost out of breath.

"Someone came up to me after the game," big Mike went on, "and said, 'Chip off the block, huh?' 'Chip off the block?' I answered. 'I couldn't carry his jock.'"

Mike Sr., is most impressed with his son's coaching composure. "I'm extremely outward — I get mad at the officials," the dad said. "Mike Jr., is more the calm type. He got that from his mother."

Technically, big Mike gave little Mike an "A" for his game plan, a half-court trap to keep the game close, figuring Fremont's strength would take over in the fourth quarter. It worked just as little Mike figured.

"He's a compassionate kind of coach," big Mike added. "He wants to be like the players, and get inside their bodies and minds. The kids look at him like he's them. When I saw he could do that, I knew he could coach."

Maybe Mike Sr., forgot where Mike Jr., received his education on compassion.

"Mike Jr., had to fill some big (Allamanno's) shoes," big Mike said. "He just pulled down the shade and went to work. You could see that team getting better from the beginning to the end."

The end came last night. Logan beat Fremont, 71-55, for the Northern California title. But little Mike didn't do badly for a young basketball coach. Come tomorrow, he'll be back coaching baseball.

Just he and his dad.

Tribune columnist Dave Newhouse appears five days a week in the sports section and hosts KNBR Sportsphone 68 Monday through Friday, 7-10 p.m.

Tigers' Marcoulis THU DEC 7 1989 Allamanno coachi

By Scott Strain
The Tribune

Fremont High boys basketball coach Mike Marcoulis Jr. resigned unexpectedly Tuesday, and Leo Allamanno, the Tigers' legendary coach, has temporarily taken his place.

Marcoulis, whose father Mike Sr. was a longtime baseball coach at Oakland High, left school a few hours before Fremont was to play Wilson of San Francisco Tuesday afternoon.

"He just came in, handed me his scorebook and keys and told me, 'I can't take it anymore,'" Fremont High P.E. assistant Melvin Wine said last night. "It took me completely by surprise."

Sources told The Tribune that Marcoulis had very high expectations of his current Fremont team and was told Monday by Fremont athletic director Bob Jerome that four or five of his players, all reserves, may become academically ineligible. This may have contributed to his decision to leave.

Marcoulis has taken a leave of absence and the school is looking to fill both the coaching position and Marcoulis' physical education teaching spot.

Neither Marcoulis nor Jerome, who was hospitalized yesterday with a stomach disorder, were available for comment.

The 69-year-old Allamanno was on the Fremont bench for the Tigers' game against Galileo High of San Francisco in the opening round of the Bill Downing Basketball Tournament at Oakland High last night.

PREP BASKETBALL

"I really don't know what happened or what's going to happen," said Allamanno, who coached Fremont to 10 Oakland Athletic League titles before retiring in 1982. "I got a call from Bob Jerome Tuesday that Mike had resigned and would I come down to run the team. I said I would."

"It's fun. I'm not sure I want to do it fulltime. You don't have to be a young man to be a basketball coach, but it's not an old man's job, either."

Allamanno was still putting names to faces last night, but something must have clicked. The Tigers beat Wilson 65-54 Tuesday and dumped Galileo 87-68 last night.

Said Wine: "The players on this team don't know what they've got."

Dan Palley, a gym instructor at Claremont Middle School who also coached junior varsity basketball at Tech and at Berkeley, said he was asked by Jerome if he was interested in the coaching job.

"He said he recommended me and asked if I was interested," Palley said. "I said yes and that's where it stands now. To get the job I need the approval from the (Oakland) School Board."

Fremont jumped to an early lead against Galileo and coasted to the victory.

The Tigers are now 4-1 and Galileo fell to 0-1.

Marcoulis returns to Fremont

MON DEC 11 1989
The Tribune

Mike Marcoulis Jr. is back on duty as Fremont High School boys basketball coach.

Marcoulis, who resigned unexpectedly last Tuesday and was placed on a leave of absence, has changed his mind. He is looking forward to the rest of the season.

"I stayed away for a 72-hour period," said Marcoulis, who returned in time to be on the bench for the Tigers' tournament loss to McAteer of San Francisco Saturday night. "In that time, I realized I made a mistake.

"I made a decision based on emotion instead of logic. I didn't really think it out."

So Marcoulis called Fremont High officials and asked if his leave of absence could be res-

PREP BASKETBALL

cinded.

"I was told to go back to work that night," Marcoulis said.

"Basically, I had been going through an emotional period and made the wrong decision. It had nothing to do with the players or with the school itself. I was just a little stressed out.

"The biggest thing is that I really missed the kids. I told them they had nothing to do with what happened."

Marcoulis confirmed that four Fremont players, none considered starters, are academically ineligible.

"I'm sorry to see that," the

coach said. "But we're going to be all right as a team. We're young, but this is one of the top groups of kids I've ever had from the standpoint of their being good to work with."

Fremont, after losing the third-place game to McAteer in the Downing/Oakland Chamber of Commerce Invitational at Oakland High, has a 4-3 record.

During Marcoulis' leave, veteran Leo Allamanno, who coached Fremont for many seasons, returned to the Fremont bench. Allamanno guided the team to a victory over Wilson of San Francisco Tuesday, a first-round tournament loss to Galileo of San Francisco and a second-round loss to Christian Brothers of Sacramento.

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Education bias

As a teacher in a so-called "flatland" school, I am personally and professionally affronted by the various innuendos suggesting that "flatland" schools offer an inferior education.

I can speak for all my colleagues at Fremont High School in saying that we offer as diversified and quality an education as any conscientious student and parent could seek. The Oakland Unified School District's policy and approach to interdistrict transfers to hill schools is appalling! The bottom line is a financial and philosophical neglect of schools existing in the inner city of Oakland.

If the district is bent on evaluating academic progress solely by test scores (which any statistician would deem as manipulative and culturally biased), then expand those so-called hill school sites, e.g. Joaquin Miller, Hillcrest, Montera and Skyline high schools, to accomodate all of the district's 51,000 students.

MICHAEL MARCOULIS

Fremont High School
Oakland

Marcoulis to coach at Skyline JC

FRI JUN 28 1991

By Tribune staff

SAN BRUNO — Mike Marcoulis Jr., who coached basketball at Fremont High in Oakland the past eight years, has been named an assistant coach at Skyline College.

Marcoulis will be one for three new assistants working for head coach Pete Pontacq for the 1991-1992 season.

Marcoulis won five Oakland Athletic League titles and compiled a 98-37 won-loss record from 1983 to 1991. He also coached baseball for eight seasons and won the OAL title in 1982.